

# Consular News

August 2007

Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Port Louis  
(230) 202-4400 or [PTLconsular@state.gov](mailto:PTLconsular@state.gov)

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## Greetings from the Consular Section

As always, there are lots of personnel changes afoot at the Embassy as our transfer season comes to a close. We'd like to welcome our new Deputy Chief of Mission, Virginia Hotchner, as well as our new Political Officer, Quentin Barber, to post. As both are commissioned Consular Officers, you may come into contact with them in the Section. At the same time, we bid fond farewells to officers Margaret Hsiang and Melissa Brown, both of whom have ably served in Port Louis for the past two years. We wish them best of luck in their future assignments.

As our "American" summer comes to an end, many of you are returning to Mauritius after trips to the U.S. and elsewhere. We welcome you back and ask that you keep us in mind if you've made changes to your contact information – address, phone number, or e-mail address. To update your registration or to register electronically, please visit the Embassy's website at [mauritius.usembassy.gov](http://mauritius.usembassy.gov).

Please keep in touch and let us know how we can better serve you.

Best regards,

Your consular team,

Wendy Ryde, Angela Henry, and Travis Jensen (Seychelles)

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### ***Check your passports!***

Please remember to check the validity of your passports now in order to avoid possible delays in your holiday travels. Currently, it takes between one and two weeks to get a U.S. passport for U.S. citizens resident in Mauritius and between two and three weeks for U.S. citizens resident in Seychelles.

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## Thanks to the Community Liaison Office

The Consular Section extends thanks to the CLO for organizing the wonderful community Independence Day celebration at the Ambassador's residence. If you would like to be included on the guest list for this and other community events in the future, please register with the Community Liaison Officer, Henry Semilota, at [CLO\\_PortLouis@state.gov](mailto:CLO_PortLouis@state.gov), or call (230) 202-4459.

## Updating the Warden Network

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Contact the Embassy:

(230) 202-4400

Or

[PTLconsular@state.gov](mailto:PTLconsular@state.gov)

Contact the Consular  
Agency:

(248) 22 52 56

Or

[Consularagency  
Seychelles@gmail.com](mailto:Consularagency<br/>Seychelles@gmail.com)

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In an effort to better prepare ourselves for an emergency or crisis, the Consular Section will be updating our warden system over the coming months. This process will be two-fold. We are looking for volunteer deputy wardens for many of our districts. Please contact us directly if you are interested. The duties involve acting as an all-important liaison with fellow U.S. citizens in your region and, in times of crises, acting as an important link to the U.S. Embassy. The time commitment is minimal but the rewards in terms of serving the community are endless!

The second part of our update entails the verification of the accuracy of our registration records. You may be contacted by consular personnel to record any changes which may have occurred in your personal information. If you registered online, you may update your online registration at the U.S. State Department's travel registration website:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation -- it will allow us to fine-tune this very important program.

## 2008 Elections – register early!

All American citizens living abroad are reminded that 2008 is a general and presidential election year in the United States. Overseas citizens are eligible to participate in presidential and state primary elections, run-off elections and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general elections in November 2008.

We strongly encourage you to register to vote and/or request absentee ballots well in advance of the presidential and state primary elections, which will begin in January 2008, to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Should questions or problems occur, early registration ensures you can still address problems in time to vote in the 2008 elections.

One way to register is by using the online version of the Federal Post Card Application, which can now be saved once completed online. Visitors to the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) are now able to save their completed Online Federal Post Card Application (OFPCA) and Online Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (OFWAB) to their computer for future use, using an Adobe Acrobat Reader version of 7.0 or higher.

For more information on voting or for assistance in obtaining information, please contact the Consular Section.

